

## **TRANSIT TASK FORCE**

### **2010 Annual Report**

#### January 20, 2010

Gary Hayes, Executive Director of the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) made a presentation on the proposed regionalization of all public transit in the region. Following the presentation, TTF members had the opportunity to ask questions and raise any concerns they had.

#### January 27, 2010

Meeting canceled due to lack of quorum.

#### February 3, 2010

Gary Hayes again addressed the TTF focusing on funding for a regional transit system and issues concerning the City's maintenance of effort obligation.

*TTF members passed a motion in favor of the recommendation to Mayor and Council of the concept of regionalization of transit services within Pima County and requested periodic updates concerning progress on the development of the final plan. They also requested an opportunity to review the final Intergovernmental Agreement and to make recommendations to the Mayor and Council relative to the IGA.*

#### February 10, 2010

This meeting was devoted to an in-depth discussion of various scenarios for fare increases. Staff presented an overview of previous fare increases and how the August 2009 fare increase resulted in a loss of ridership and revenue per passenger due to the economy, decrease in fuel costs, and a significant increase in low income riders. There was considerable discussion regarding the low income fare and non-profit programs. Two fare increase proposals were reviewed. After much discussion, *a motion was passed to urge the Mayor and Council not to raise fares this year, request that any future fare increase be considered in relation to a more long-term policy, and recommend that any fare increase be reinvested in the transit system.*

#### September 22, 2010

In response to Mayor and Council direction at their September 8, 2010 meeting, TTF members discussed a proposed transit fare increase and/or service cuts. The TTF considered three proposed fare increase scenarios including increase by fare category and the subsequent effect on ridership and revenue for each of the scenarios. TTF asked staff to prepare figures for a \$2.00 increase for express fares, provide options on revising eligibility standards for the low income fare, provide a hybrid of the three fare increase proposals, and show options for service cuts.

### September 30, 2010

TTF continued their discussion from September 22, 2010 regarding proposed transit fare increase and/or service cuts. Staff shared with the TTF that earlier that day the RTA Board approved to restore the full commitment of \$8.1 million in RTA funding for IGAs for expanded services for Sun Tran and Sun Van services. With that assurance and the upcoming vote for a City sales tax increase to fund core services (including transit), TTF members agreed that they could focus on discussing the long-term health of the transit system and the improvement of transit services. TTF members approved *a motion stating "The Transit Task Force recommends to Mayor and Council that no fare increase or service cuts occur at this time based upon the RTA action on September 30<sup>th</sup>, but that the committee should continue to meet to consider the health of the transit system."*

### October 27, 2010

Meeting canceled due to a lack of quorum.

### November 17, 2010

Following the defeat of the city sales tax proposition, Council Member Uhlich asked to hear back from the TTF on their recommendations for Sun Tran fees and services. Following considerable discussion of the health of the transit system and route performance measures the TTF approved *a motion to forward the following recommendations to Mayor and Council:*

- *A 15% budget reduction across the board to transit is not acceptable.*
- *Recommend a 10% budget reduction.*
- *Explore what else can be done to cut costs at Sun Tran before cutting service*
- *Recommend a fare increase but not until after July 1, 2011.*